

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 5, 2009. Claims 1-6, 8, and 10 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 3, and 5 are in independent form. Claims 1, 3, and 5 have been amended to define aspects of Applicant's invention more clearly. Support for the claim amendments may be found, for example, at page 14, lines 12-18, and page 15, line 18, to page 16, line 1.¹ Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0142683 (*Lam et al.*), in view of a document entitled "Request for Comments No. 2462: IPv6 Stateless Address Autoconfiguration" (*Thomson et al.*), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,934,932 (*Dathathraya*); and that Claims 2, 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lam et al.*, *Thomson et al.*, and *Dathathraya*, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,494 (*Ouchi*). For at least the following reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 3, and 5, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a composite image processing apparatus for performing a plurality of image processing functions, including a printer function and a scanner function. The apparatus includes an IP address generator and a controller. The IP address generator is connected to an IPv6 router on a network. The IP address generator repeatedly acquires prefix information from the IPv6 router and generates a plurality of IP addresses, based on the repeatedly acquired prefix information. Each of the IP addresses is

¹ Any examples presented herein are intended for illustrative purposes and are not to be construed to limit the scope of the claims.

unique to a different one of the plurality of image processing functions. A number of the plurality of IP addresses is equal to a number of the plurality of image processing functions. The controller communicates with a plurality of appliances on the network using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions, operates each of the plurality of image processing functions to execute communications between each of the plurality of image processing functions and at least one of the plurality of appliances, and executes a transfer task for transferring packet data. The transfer task for transferring packet data is managed by an OS using buffer areas allocated to the printer function and the scanner function, respectively.

By virtue of the operation of the IP address generator, drivers installed on a host computer that controls the image processing functions of the composite image processing apparatus can be designed independently for each of the functions, for example. Thus, the drivers can be simplified compared to drivers for conventional, composite image processing apparatuses.

Lam et al. is understood to relate to a method of providing multi-user access to devices and the Internet (*see* paragraph 2). *Lam et al.* discusses that a peripheral access router 38 communicates with peripheral devices, such as a camera 44, a digital video disk player 46, a compact disk reader/writer 48, a storage hard drive 50, a scanner 52, a printer 54, a copier 56, and a telephone 58 (*see* paragraph 35 and FIG. 2). The peripheral access router 38 includes a memory 64 that stores a unique IP address for each of the peripheral devices 44-58 (*see* paragraph 36).

Lam et al. fails to teach or suggest that the peripheral access router 38 generates IP addresses for the peripheral devices 44-58, much less, generates IP addresses for the peripheral devices 44-58 based on repeatedly acquiring prefix information from an IPv6 router.

Lam et al. also fails to teach or suggest that the peripheral access router 38 generates IP addresses, where each of the IP addresses is unique to a different one of a plurality of image processing functions of a composite image processing apparatus. Moreover, *Lam et al.* fails to teach or suggest that a number of IP addresses provided by the peripheral access router 38 addresses is equal to a number of image processing functions of a composite image processing apparatus. For example, the copier 56 is understood to perform at least two image processing functions, *e.g.*, a printer function and a scanner function, however, the peripheral access router 38 is understood to provide a single IP address to the copier 56.

Thomson et al. is understood to relate to autoconfiguration of IPv6 addresses (*see* Title). *Thomson et al.* discusses that a host computer can generate its own address using a combination of locally available information and information advertised by routers (*see* page 2, Introduction, paragraph 2). *Thomson et al.* fails to teach or suggest that the host computer generates a plurality of IP addresses, much less that the host computer generates a plurality of IP addresses, where each IP address is unique to a different one of a plurality of functions performed by the host computer.

Dathathraya is understood to relate to a system for managing a workflow using a plurality of different scripts (*see* col. 1, lines 8-10). *Dathathraya* discusses that a workflow system can include a computer workstation and a multifunctional peripheral (MFP) device (*see* col. 7, lines 1-2). A shell extension to the computer operating system is installed (*see* col. 7, lines 5-6). In response to accessing the shell extension, a plurality of folders is generated (*see* col. 7, lines 7-8). A script is written for each of a plurality of folders selected from a group including: scanning, faxing, printing, and copying (*see* col. 7, lines 9-11). The folders are saved and supplied with the plurality of scripts (*see* col. 7, lines 12-14). A first number of folders is

pre-selected prior to accepting a document (*see* col. 7, lines 15-16). A document capable of being processed by any of the scripts is supplied (*see* col. 7, lines 17-18). The document is processed using the script from each selected folder (*see* col. 7, lines 19-20). A first number of scripted documents is generated and added to the selected folders (*see* col. 7, lines 21-22).

Nothing has been found in *Dathathraya* that is believed to teach or suggest that prefix information is repeatedly acquired from a IPv6 router, and that a plurality of IP addresses are generated, based on the repeatedly acquired prefix information. Moreover, nothing has been found in *Dathathraya* that is believed to teach or suggest that each of a plurality of generated IP addresses is unique to a different one of a plurality of image processing functions performed by the MFP device, where a number of the plurality of IP addresses is equal to a number of the plurality of image processing functions.

In summary, Applicant submits that a combination of *Lam et al.*, *Thomson et al.*, and *Dathathraya*, assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a composite image processing apparatus for performing a plurality of image processing functions, including a printer function and a scanner function, that includes “an IP address generator, connected to an IPv6 router on a network, operable to repeatedly acquire prefix information from the IPv6 router and generate a plurality of IP addresses, based on the acquired prefix information, wherein each of the IP addresses is unique to a different one of the plurality of image processing functions, and wherein a number of the plurality of IP addresses is equal to a number of the plurality of image processing functions,” and “a controller operable to communicate with a plurality of appliances on the network using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions and operate each of the plurality of image processing functions to execute communications between each of the plurality of image processing

functions and at least one of the plurality of appliances, and to execute a transfer task for transferring packet data, wherein the transfer task for transferring packet data is managed by an OS using buffer areas allocated to the printer function and the scanner function, respectively,” as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over *Lam et al.*, *Thomson et al.*, and *Dathathraya*, whether considered separately or in combination, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Independent Claims 3 and 5 include features sufficiently similar to those of Claim 1 that these claims are believed to be patentable over *Lam et al.*, *Thomson et al.*, and *Dathathraya*, whether considered separately or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above. The other rejected claims in the present application depend from one or another of independent Claims 1, 3, and 5 and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and an early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for responding to the Office Action is deemed necessary for this Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

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Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

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